

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2448-5**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) recognizes the linguistic diversity of our community and the importance of providing educational opportunities that reflect and support this diversity; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is home to more than [75 languages](#) and, [according to the U.S. Census](#), 55% of residents speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is home to a significant and growing Indian American population, which has expressed interest in the inclusion of Hindi language programs in local schools to preserve cultural heritage and promote multilingual proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) in nearby Alameda County has become the first public school district in California to introduce Hindi as a world language, launching a pilot program at Horner Middle School and Irvington High School for the 2024-2025 school year; and

WHEREAS, [research indicates](#) that multilingualism enhances cognitive development, academic achievement, and cultural understanding, preparing students for success in a globalized economy; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE is committed to fostering inclusive and culturally-relevant educational environments that offer diverse learning opportunities for all students, including those interested in languages less frequently taught in public schools; and

WHEREAS, California students who complete [the requirements outlined by the California Department of Education](#) have the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE acknowledges the challenges of implementing new language programs, including capacity constraints, and encourages thoughtful collaboration among school districts, community partners, and educational leaders to explore feasible pathways for offering Hindi and other languages of interest to the community; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby acknowledge and support the efforts of school districts in the region, to pilot and expand Hindi and other language programs, and encourages the exploration of additional opportunities for world language instruction that aligns with community interest and district capacity.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 18, 2024, by the following vote:

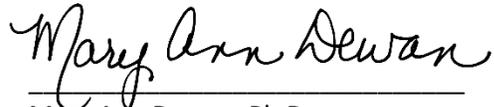
AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah and Sreekrishnan
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools